



**Testimony Submitted By Suzanne Bates, Policy
Director of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, to
the Government Administration and Elections
Committee on HB 6903.**

March 16, 2015

The Yankee Institute for Public Policy is a Connecticut think tank that develops and advances policy solutions to promote smart, limited government; fairness for taxpayers; and an open road to opportunity for all the people of our state.

The Yankee Institute supports the principles that prompted the introduction of House Bill 6903. The foundations that were set up by the state's colleges and universities to raise private funds should be open to public scrutiny through the state's Freedom of Information Act.

The taxpayers of Connecticut will spend more than \$5 billion over the next biennium supporting our colleges and universities. There is a public good in providing a quality, affordable post-secondary education for our state's students.

Given the investment by the public in these institutions, we believe the public has a right to know what money the foundations receive and how that money is spent.